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channeled above; lower leaves very small, 0.5 mm. long, perceptibly larger above; upper ones 1 mm. long, margins plane or scarcely revolute, entire; costa vanishing in the apex or hardly reaching it, papillose on the back; lower cells pellucid, somewhat lax, smooth, oblong, sub-rectangular; the median quadrate; the upper ones small scarcely 4-5  $\mu$  long, rounded-quadrate, obtuse, minutely papillose. Perichaetial leaves larger than the stem leaves, the outer appressed at the half-sheathing base, rather abruptly elongated into a channeled spreading or recurved acumen; the inner ones broadly and shortly acuminate, areolation pellucid throughout. Capsule 1-2 mm. long, 0.3-0.4 mm. broad, oblong, erect or oblique, on a pale slender seta 12-18 mm. long, twisted to the right when dry; operculum conic-subulate, equalling or surpassing the capsule. Annulus compound, 0.07 mm. broad. Peristome deep red; basal membrane 0.08 mm. high, teeth twisted, about 1 mm. long, strongly granulose. Spores smooth, 8  $\mu$  in diameter. Male flowers unknown. Very probably dioicous. (p. 17. *pl. IV.*)

Idaho: Cedar creek, Latah county, on ground (L. F. Henderson, 1897).

This moss, received from Mr. Henderson only in very small quantity, seems a miniature of *B. flavipes* B. & S., from which, besides in its small size, it differs chiefly by the lid as long as the capsule, or even longer. By this character, as well as by the form of the leaves, it resembles also *Trichostomum dicranoides* Sch. (*T. macrostegium* Sull. Icon. Suppl. 35, *pl. 22*) from Central and South America and the Antilles, which has been also recorded from Alabama; but this last species has the beak of the lid thinner, the leaves larger, broader, denticulate above, a less opaque areolation of larger and more distinct cells, and the peristome less twisted, with a shorter basilar membrane.

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POLYTRICHUM JENSENII Hagen, in Meddelelser om Grönland, 15: 444. 1898.

This very rare European species was collected on the shore of Beaver Lake in the Yellowstone National Park in the summer of 1898 by Prof. Aven Nelson. It is closely related to *P. commune* having the terminal cells of the lamellae of the same general form. Prof. Nelson's plants are sterile and were at first thought to be a diseased form of *P. commune*, but a careful study of the plant by Dr. I. Hagen and others established the identity of the plant beyond reasonable doubt. It is more slender and lighter colored than *P. commune*. The leaves are shorter and more erect when moist, nearly entire, and with much less slender apex, being acute instead of slenderly acuminate. At the point of transition between the sheathing base and the lamina there is a dark brown spot on each side of the costa, caused by shrinking; at this point the leaves break off easily.—From an article by J. M. Holzinger in *Asa Gray Bulletin*, 3: 95-99. *f. 6*. October, 1900.

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#### CURRENT BRYOLOGICAL LITERATURE.

In the *Revue Bryologique* for January, 1901 (28: 1), Mr. R. S. Williams reports the receipt of a specimen of *Timmia cucullata* Mx. from Europe, under the name of *T. megapolitana* Hedw. *T. cucullata* has not before been credited to Europe.

*T. cucullata* has the leaf as wide above or even wider than the clasping

base in most of the leaves; the leaf median cells are 0.012 mm. in diameter. The capsule is always curved, nodding, scarcely furrowed when old, and wide-mouthed, gradually narrowing from mouth to seta; the exothelial cells are mostly elongated and sinuous walled. In the United States this species seems to be the only one found any distance east of the Rocky Mountains. It also occurs on the Pacific slope. It usually grows on damp shady banks, sometimes on the base of trees.

*T. megapolitana* has a leaf base wider than the blade above, median cells about 0.008 mm. in diameter; ripe capsule nearly straight, becoming furrowed with age and mouth not wider than capsule below; the exothelial walls irregular, scarcely elongated, and sinuous walled. Usually growing at a somewhat higher elevation than *T. cucullata*, on rather dry soil at the base of ledges of rocks. Rocky Mountains and northward.

The European *T. cucullata* was from near Archangel, Russia.

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In the Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club for December, 1900 (27: 648-649), Mrs. Britton has the following notes:

"DIDYMODON RIPARIUS Aust.—This species was described as *Pottia riparia* Aust. in the Supplement to Sullivant's Icones in 1874, and the fruit was figured on Plate 21. In 1880, Warnstorff described *Barbula lingulata*, which Limpricht later changed to *Trichostomum Warnstorffii* (Laubm. 1: 587. 1888) the specific name being preoccupied. In 1892, Kindberg in Macoun's Catalogue, described *Leptodontium Canadense*, as a new species, remarking that 'it is rather peculiar that this genus had not been represented before in North America.' In the Bryineae of Europe and North America, he described this species as *Didymodon Macounii* Kindb. (new name) and referred *Pottia riparia* Aust. to *Didymodon riparius* Aust., the name it bore in Austin's herbarium. I have critically compared all these specimens and am persuaded that they are one and the same species, characterized by very peculiar brood-bodies, borne on long slender filaments, either in clusters in the axils of the leaves or at the summit of the stems, mixed with the archegonia and seeming to replace the paraphyses. Limpricht figured them on page 588, Fig. 171 of the Laubmoose, and Correns in his *Unter-suchen der Laubmoose* has also figured and described them as *Trichostomum Warnstorffii*. The European specimens have not been found fruiting, and Austin's station on the Palisades is the only one thus far discovered where it is known to fruit. It has probably been overlooked in many places, on account of its small size, dirty appearance, and sterility. The following stations are recorded for North America: On rocks in streams, Palisades of northern New Jersey and southern New York, C. F. Austin; Niagara Falls, F. Wolle;? Watkins; Chilson Lake, Mrs. Harris; Bashbish Falls, R. S. Williams. Penna.: Bethlehem, Rau and Wolle; Pocono Mt., T. C. Porter. Springfield, Ohio, Miss Biddlecome; Owen Sound, Ont., J. Macoun. In Europe it is only known in Switzerland from the Rhine at Schaffhausen and in the lake at Zurich."

Mrs. Britton and Mr. Ernest S. Salmon have agreed that *Grimmia Philibertiana* E. G. Britton, is a synonym of *Grimmia anomala* Hpe. This species has never been found fruiting in Europe, but was collected in fruit in Idaho by

Mr. J. B. Leiberger. (It is interesting to note that both these rarely fruiting species bear abundant brood-bodies.—A. J. G.)

Many collectors of mosses have noticed a club-shaped white fungus growth arising from various species of mosses. Mrs. Britton states that this is *Typhula muscicola* Pers. and gives a list of localities and collectors.—A. J. G.

MOSSES WITH A HAND-LENS, a Non-technical Handbook of the More Common and More easily Recognized Mosses of the North-Eastern United States, by A. J. Grout, Ph. D.

In the study of any branch of science the first steps are the most difficult, require the most persistent efforts on the part of the student, and are beset with the most discouragements. The recognition of these facts has in late years borne its legitimate fruits in the production of a large number of elementary works intended to assist beginners. Mosses with a Hand-lens is one of these, in fact the only one in its special field. Its author's professional training as teacher enabled him to know just how and where and when to give the needed assistance. Beginning the subject matter with two well-arranged keys, the one based mainly on structural characters, the other mainly on habitat, he proceeds to describe in language clear and simple and easily understood, one hundred of the commoner mosses, such as are not infrequently found in the eastern parts of the United States and Canada. Along with these descriptions are a large number of neatly executed illustrations, which are valuable in that they show at a glance the distinctive characters of the plants under consideration. Last but not least, is an illustrated glossary of bryological terms. This is an important part of the book, one that has evidently been prepared with considerable care, and may be consulted with advantage not only by beginners and amateurs, but by professionals as well.

In the preparation of a work like Mosses with a Hand-lens, it is not an easy task for the author to decide on what and how much to include. Whether the usefulness of Dr. Grout's book would have been increased by the treatment of a larger number of representative species is an open question, as is also whether the student will be able from these descriptions alone, without a knowledge of the minute anatomy of the plants, to make anything like satisfactory determinations of his gatherings. In whatever ways these questions may be answered, the fact remains that the descriptions and illustrations given in this work will often offer a clue to the beginner that he could not obtain from any other source, and by which he will be enabled, probably with the aid of an imperfect knowledge of the characters derived from the minute anatomy as given in the manuals, to work his way to satisfactory results.—G. N. Best.

#### CARL MUELLER'S GENERA MUSCORUM.

Dr. Carl Mueller died February 9, 1899, in Halle, Germany, at the ripe age of eighty years. In spite of this, death surprised this veteran bryologist in the midst of intense scientific activity, and he left some valuable manuscripts unpublished. The most important of these, his *Genera Muscorum Frondosorum*, on which he worked with the greatest devotion during the closing years of his life,